

Amendments to the Specification:

In the Brief Description of the Drawings, please add the following new paragraphs after the paragraph ending on line 18 of page 3:

B1 --FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of a laser slab according to one embodiment of the present invention having a semi-circular cross section.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of a laser slab according to one embodiment of the present invention having a parabolic cross section.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph::

B2 --Alternative constructions for a laser slab 10 which serve to funnel optical energy to the ionic layer 12 similarly to the trapezoidal formation discussed above are possible. For example, a laser slab 10 may be constructed with a semi-circular or parabolic cross-section along the line B-B of FIG. 1. FIG. 5 shows a laser slab 10 constructed with a semi-circular cross-section, and FIG. 6 shows a laser slab 10 constructed with a parabolic cross-section. Total internal reflections off the side walls 24 of a nonionic layers 14 having such a cross-sections would tend to guide pump energy into the ionic layers 12.--